



October 7, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: AT&T/DirecTV transaction: Docket 14-90

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In Virginia, we have long been blessed by a strong economy and have regularly been recognized as the best state for business. While we have much to be thankful for, there are still issues that need further consideration as we continue to compete in an increasingly global economy. Some regions of the Commonwealth, many of which are rural areas, are not enjoying the level of prosperity experienced by others. In order to maintain our ranking as the best state for business, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to foster economic development in every part of our state.

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest business advocacy organization with more than 18,000 members. As the voice for business, the Chamber works in the legislative, regulatory and political arenas to act as a catalyst for enhancing Virginia's economic competitiveness and pro-business climate. During the past eighteen months, the Chamber engaged over 7,000 business and community leaders from around the state to develop *Blueprint Virginia: A Business Plan for the Commonwealth*, a comprehensive initiative to provide business leadership, direction and long-range economic development planning for Virginia.

One of the outcomes of this effort was a consensus to ensure that Virginia remains a leader in technology, innovation and startups. In order to maintain our leadership position in this sector, we must expand broadband services, especially in rural or underserved communities. This is why the Virginia Chamber of Commerce supports the merger between AT&T and DIRECTV.

According to our review of the transaction, if this merger is approved AT&T has committed to expand the availability of high speed broadband service to an estimated 580,000 customer locations in Virginia, many in rural or underserved areas of the Commonwealth. In fact, in some communities, this merger will give residents the opportunity to access high-speed Internet service for the first time. We believe your approval of this transaction will enable Virginia to remain a leader in technology and innovation, so we respectfully ask for your prompt consideration and approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry E. DuVal".

Barry E. DuVal
President and CEO